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Purge Due In Soviet Spy Ranks

300 Top Operatives Called Home After Penkovsky Case

By James E. Warner
(Herald Tribune News Service)

Washington, May 18--Russian intelligence chiefs are so shaken up over Western penetration of their ranks that they have summoned at least 300 of their top operatives back to Moscow for "consultation," The Herald Tribune News Service learned tonight.

Two men have been called back to the Kremlin from Washington, and at least three more are slated to leave. One attache has been recalled from Ottawa. Others have been recalled from posts all over the world.

Whether any of them will be returned to their posts after examination by their superiors in Moscow remains to be seen.

Was Double Agent

Apparently every Russian attache or civilian intelligence employe who had any contact at any time anywhere in the world with Col. Vladimir F. Penkovsky, executed this week as a traitor in the latest Moscow spy case, has been summoned home. There is little doubt that the colonel, a top man in Soviet intelligence, was in fact a double agent, dealing with the West, as the Russians themselves charged.

It was equally apparent that in calling their men home the Russians feared not only the British and French secret services and the American Central Intelligence Agency but also the American Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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